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CARE OF AN
ELECTRIC IRON

A good electric iron is a sturdy piece of equipment, strongly made of well-plated metal. But the connections to the heating element concealed inside of it may be jarred if the iron is dropped. Dropping may also cause the pointed end to roughen so that it snags delicate fabrics. The sole plate will not give a smooth clean finish to garments if it becomes scratched or rusty.

The cord is a particularly vulnerable part of the iron, easily getting out of order and causing short circuits or complete failure to heat. The insulation is easily damaged if the cord is bent or rubbed continually in one spot. If the user pulls on the cord to disconnect the iron instead of taking hold of the plug, the fine wires inside the insulating wrapping may break and the current will not flow through. If broken ends of these wires touch each other there may be a short circuit when the iron is connected to the socket.

Stand the iron on its heel while shifting the article being ironed, or rest the iron on a metal stand or asbestos strip on the broad end of the ironing board. Disconnect the cord if called away to the telephone or for any other reason. Irons left connected may overheat and that shortens the useful life of the heating element. They have also been responsible for many fires, especially when left flat on the board. They quickly scorch through the ironing board covers and may start fire.

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